

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, MILI, TPHY, BL

SUBJECT: SEISMOGRAPHIC RESEARC

REF: LA PAZ 7799

1. THE FOLLOWING DATA IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
POSED REFTEL. DEPARTMENT HOPES IT WILL CLEAR THE WAY FOR
RAPID EMBASSY AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATION PROPOSED BY AFOSR.

2. WHAT IS EXACT NATURE OF RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED? THE
ON-GOING RESEARCH PROJECT BEING CONDUCTED UNDER AFOSR GRANT
NUMBER 72-2397 WITH THE COLEGIO SAN CALIXTO IN LA PAZ
EVALUATES LONG PERIOD INSTRUMENT IMPROVEMENTS AND RECORDING
TECHNIQUES FOR DETECTING AND IDENTIFYING SEISMIC EVENTS
WITH ENERGY IN THE 30-60 SECOND SPECTRAL BAND. THE
ANALYSIS OF SIGNALS IN THE 15 TO 100 SECOND BAND COVERS
STUDIES OF (1) SPECTRAL DIFFERENCES OF EXPLOSION AND EARTH-
QUAKE SIGNALS, (2) SOURCE TIME FUNCTION FOR EARTQUAKES AND
EXPLOSIONS, (3) WAVE PROPAGATION AND FOCAL MECHANISMS, (4)
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LONG-PERIOD SHEAR WAVES DISCRIMINATION TECHNIQUES, AND (5)

THE EARTH NOISE MINIMUM IN THE 30 TO 50 SECOND BAND. THESE STUDIES ARE DIRECTED TOWARD EXPLOITING THE DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VERY LONG-PERIOD PART OF THE SEISMIC SPECTRUM FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOWERING

THE SOURCE IDENTIFICATION MAGNITUDE THRESHOLD TO THE PREVAILING VALUE FOR SEISMIC DETECTION.

3. OF WHAT BENEFIT IS THE RESEARCH TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS? THE RESEARCH IS IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MISSION TO DEVELOP, MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE US CAPABILITY TO DETECT, LOCATE AND IDENTIFY EARTHQUAKES AND EXPLOSIONS; AND, FURTHER, TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN NATURAL PHENOMENA, SUCH AS EARTHQUAKES, AND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION DOD'S ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY MAINTAINS A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF SEISMOGRAPHIC STATIONS WHICH COLLECT DATA AND FORWARD IT TO A SEISMIC ANALYSIS CENTER HERE. THUS HIGH ON THE LIST OF US NATIONAL INTEREST BENEFITS IS THE SUPPORT WHICH THIS DATA LEND TO MONITORING THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. EXISTING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS LA PAZ ARE ALSO IMPORTANT IN THAT ARPA IS NOW EXPANDING AND UPGRADING ITS WORLDWIDE SEISMIC NETWORK AND NEW STATIONS ARE LOCATED TO COMPLEMENT THE CAPABILITIES OF OPERATING STATIONS. KISSINGER

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